

HUMA2633

Before Mao: Traditional Chinese Society from 1800 to 1949

Course Offered in: Summer term of 2018

Course Instructor: Dr. Wing-ho WONG

Time and Venue: 10:00-12:50 (Mon, Wed, Fri) LTC

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Course Description

This subject provides students with no previous training in the studies about China a broad overview of traditional Chinese society, from High Qing Empire to the establishment of People's Republic of China, touching upon topics that are essential to the understanding of the rapid transformation in China. The course will systematically cover state and local governance, the ideal and reality of life, and the practices of the elites as well as the ordinary people from the traditional to the modern period in China.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, students should be able to

1. Gain some insights on traditional Chinese society
2. Understand the key issues of the rapid transformation in China
3. Develop critical thinking and skills to analyze Chinese historical materials
4. Explore new research methods using textual, material, and visual sources, including films, photographs, etc.

Assessment

1. Participation (10%)

- a. Active engagement in lectures and tutorials, including comments on tutorial group presentations.
- b. Preparation before class.

2. Tutorial Presentation and Written Report

There are 5 tutorials. Students are required to attend all of them. Absence from or late arrival to any tutorials for any reason will be reflected in the final grade, and no homework replacement shall be accepted. Students are required to do a group presentation AND a written report for tutorials.

- a. Group presentation (15%)

Students will form into groups to make a power-point presentation. Students who fail to find themselves in a group will be assigned to one by the instructor. Each group has to pick one topic from the list of topics that the instructor will provide in due course. Students are expected to narrow down the given topic and elaborate on a specific aspect of the topic. They should give critical thoughts and demonstrate their knowledge on the topic. Each group presentation will last for 30 minutes including open discussion.

- b. Written report of the presentation (25%)

Each student is required to pick one topic from the list of topics in the tutorials and to write his/her written report (about 1,000 - 2,000 words). The written report should reflect a more in-depth exploration of the topic. Papers have to adhere to the strictest standard of academic honesty. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be dealt with seriously. The written report is due on **16 July 2018**. One-third of a letter grade will be deducted each day for late submission.

3. Final exam (50%)

The exam will be conducted in the final class meeting. The format of the final exam will include identification and short essays. The exam will

take 90 minutes.

Textbook and Main References

William T. Rowe, *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2009.

Ranbir Vohra, *China's Path to Modernization: A Historical Review from 1800 to the Present*. Prentice Hall, 2000.

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013.

Class Topics and Readings

Lecture 1 (20 June 2018)

Introduction: What does "Traditional Chinese Society" Mean?

Lecture 2 (22 June 2018)

High Qing: An Overview of the Imperial State

Readings:

William T. Rowe, *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*, pp. 63-121.

Ranbir Vohra, *China's Path to Modernization: A Historical Review from 1800 to the Present*, pp. 1-20.

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, Chapter 3-5.

Lecture 3 (25 June 2018)

Foreign Trade and Opium Wars in the 19th Century

Readings:

William T. Rowe, *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*, pp. 122-174.

Ranbir Vohra, *China's Path to Modernization: A Historical Review from 1800 to the Present*, pp. 22-48.

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, chapter 6-7.

Lecture 4 (27 June 2018)

The Taiping Rebellion and the Late Qing Reform I

Readings:

William T. Rowe, *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*, pp.175-200.

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, chapter 8-10.

Lecture 5 and Tutorial 1 (29 June 2018)

The Taiping Rebellion and the Late Qing Reform II

Readings:

William T. Rowe, *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*, pp.175-200.

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, chapter 8-10.

Lecture 6 (4 July 2108)

The 1911 Revolution and Political Changes in Republican China I

Readings:

William T. Rowe, *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*, pp. 201-283.

Ranbir Vohra, *China's Path to Modernization: A Historical Review from 1800 to the Present*, pp. 51-103.

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, chapter 11-12.

Lecture 7 and Tutorial (6 July 2018)

The 1911 Revolution and Political Changes in Republican China II

Readings:

William T. Rowe, *China's Last Empire: The Great Qing*, pp. 201-283.

Ranbir Vohra, *China's Path to Modernization: A Historical Review from 1800 to the Present*, pp. 51-103.

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, chapter 11-12.

Lecture 8 and Tutorial 3 (9 July 2018)

The Making of New Intellectuals

Readings:

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, chapter 11-12.

R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History*, Boston: Prentice Hall, 2011, chapter 9.

Peter Zarrow, *China in War and Revolution, 1895-1949*. London and New York: Routledge, 2005, chapter 7-8.

Lecture 9 and Tutorial 4 (11 July 2018)

The Rise of the City and Urban Transformation

Readings:

Peter Zarrow, *China in War and Revolution, 1895-1949*, chapter 6

Lee, Leo Ou-fan, *Shanghai Modern: The Flowering of a New Urban Culture in China, 1930-1945*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999, chapter 1.

Lecture 10 and Tutorial 5 (13 July 2018)

Changes in Class and Gender: Workers and “New Women”

Readings:

Elizabeth Perry, *Shanghai on Strike: The Politics of Chinese Labor*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1993, chapter 5.

Emily Honig, *Sisters and Strangers: Women in the Shanghai Cotton Mills, 1919-1949*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1986, Introduction and chapter 6.

Peter Zarrow, *China in War and Revolution, 1895-1949*, chapter 6-7.

Lecture 11 (16 July 2018)

Peasants and Agricultural Crises in Republican China

Readings:

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, chapter 15.

Peter Zarrow, *China in War and Revolution, 1895-1949*, chapter 13-14.

Lecture 12 (18 July 2018)

The Sino-Japanese War and its Aftermath

Readings:

Ranbir Vohra, *China's Path to Modernization: A Historical Review from 1800 to the Present*, pp. 163-181.

Jonathan D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, chapter 17-18.

Diana Lary, *The Chinese People at War: Human Suffering and Social Transformation, 1937-1945*. Cambridge Mass.: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Lecture 13 (20 July 2018)

Conclusion: The Making of Modern China

Final Examination (23 July 2018)

A Recommended Reading List

- Marie-Claire Bergère, *The Golden Age of the Chinese Bourgeoisie, 1911-1937*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Paul A. Cohen, *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.
- Robert Culp, *Civic Education and Student Politics in Southeastern China, 1912–1940*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Frank Dikotter, *Sex, Culture and Modernity in China: Medical Science and the Construction of Sexual Identities in the Early Republican Period*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1995.
- Prasenjit Duara, *Culture, Power, and the State: Rural North China, 1900-1942*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991.
- David Faure, *Emperor and Ancestor: State and Lineage in South China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007.
- John Fitzgerald, *Awakening China: Politics, Culture and Class in the Nationalist Revolution*. Stanford: Stanford University press, 1996.
- Joshua A. Fogel, Peter Gue Zarrow, eds., *Imagining the People: Chinese Intellectuals and the Concept of Citizenship, 1890-1920*. Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 1997.
- Edmund S. K. Fung, *The Intellectual Foundations of Chinese Modernity: Cultural and Political Thought in the Republican Era*. Cambridge Mass.: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- R. Kent Guy, *Qing Governors and Their Provinces*. Washington, D. C.: University of Washington Press, 2010.
- Stephen R. Halsey, *European Imperialism and the Making of Chinese Statecraft*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2015.
- Henrietta Harrison, *The Making of the Republican Citizen: Political Ceremonies and Symbols in China 1911-1929*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2000.
- Henrietta Harrison, *China: Inventing the Nation*. London: Arnold, 2001.
- Laura Hostetler, *Qing Colonial Enterprise: Ethnography and Cartography in Early Modern China*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.
- Kay Ann Johnson, *Women, the Family and Peasant Revolution in China*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 1985.
- Gerth, Karl. *China Made: Consumer Culture and the Creation of the Nation*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003.
- Philip A. Kuhn, *Rebellion and its Enemies in Late Imperial China: Militarization and Social Structure, 1796-1864*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1980.

- Philip A. Kuhn, *Origins of the Modern Chinese State*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.
- James Leibold, *Reconfiguring Chinese Nationalism: How the Qing Frontier and its Indigenes Became Chinese*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
- Huaiyin Li, *Reinventing Modern China: Imagination and Authenticity in Chinese Historical Writing*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2012.
- Daniel McMahon, *Rethinking the Decline of China's Qing Dynasty: Imperial Activism and Borderland Management at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century*. London and New York: Routledge, 2017.
- Elizabeth J. Perry. *Shanghai on Strike: The Politics of Chinese Labor*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1995.
- Elizabeth J. Perry, *Patrolling the Revolution: Worker Militias, Citizenship, and the Modern Chinese State*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.
- Stephen R. Platt, *Autumn in the Heavenly Kingdom: China, the West, and the Epic Story of the Taiping Civil War*. London: Atlantic Books, 2012.
- Jonathan Porter, *Imperial China, 1350-1900*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016.
- Shakhar Rahav, *The Rise of Political Intellectuals in Modern China: May Fourth Societies and the Roots of Mass-party Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.
- William T. Rowe, *Crimson Rain: Seven Centuries of Violence in a Chinese County*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007.
- Grace Yen Shen, *Unearthing the Nation: Modern Geology and Nationalism in Republican China*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, 2014.
- Lynn A. Struve, *The Qing Formation in World-Historical Time*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center, Distributed by Harvard University Press, 2004.
- Frederic Wakeman, *Strangers at the Gate: Social Disorder in South China, 1839-1861*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1966.
- Peter Zarrow, ed., *Creating Chinese Modernity: Knowledge and Everyday Life, 1900-1940*. New York: Peter Lang, 2006.
- Madeleine Zelin, Jonathan K. Ocko, and Robert Gardella, eds., *Contract and Property in Early Modern China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004.